

Mike Callas

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IT'S THE BOWLING BUSINESS FOR GIL HODGES

This past week has seen the Dodgers on a hitting spree the likes of which are reminiscent of days of yore. Most everybody on the club, even big Stan Williams, were connecting for all kinds of base hits. However, it was not so with the ole pro, Gil Hodges. Although Gil hit the ball well, it was right at someone and in the final boxscore it was recorded as just a series of outs. Perhaps 1960 will see the end of one of the greatest baseball players of all time.

Prior to the final game between Los Angeles and Chicago we managed to garner a few minutes with the nicest guy on the Dodger staff, and ask the type of questions hitters are not used to answering.

In the event this is your last year with the club Gil, do you have any plans for the future?

Hodges
Yes I do. I like to stay in baseball in some capacity. Either as a player or coach. But if I cannot then I'm going to devote my full time as part owner of a bowling alley.

Is it still, the lanes I mean, in the thinking stage?
No. The 48 lane Gil Hodges Bowl is now in construction on Ralph Ave. in Brooklyn. Several others are in it with me and we plan a fall opening.

Loves Brooklyn

Is that one of the reasons you and your family stayed in Brooklyn and didn't come west like so many of the other Dodgers?

Partly. But mostly it's because my wife and I have so many friends and attachments back there. My boy Gillie, who's with me now, is used to his pals in school and we all are members of a church in Brooklyn we wouldn't like to part with. I'm afraid I'm not much of a moving guy. Our home at 32nd and Ave. L is the site of many wonderful memories.

Do you think your hitting is off because Alston has not used you often?

No. Walt has been very generous and has kept me in the line-up. Norm Larker is hitting well and deserves all the attention. Norm has come a long way.

Is Gillie enjoying his stay here in Los Angeles with you?

He sure is. But he's used to baseball. He's looking forward to a trip we have planned for Marineland. He's just as excited about seeing all the fishes there as I was when I first broke into major league baseball.

See More Platooning

Tell me Gil, how did you feel when, earlier in the year, Walt took you out for a pinch hitter?

It was the first time in my career that I had to give way to a left-handed hitter. It bothered me a bit but I don't blame Alston. He's got to play percentages, although I have always hit righthanders as well as the lefties.

Do you think it is good for players to be platooned?

I do not. But it is becoming a regular practice among managers. I believe a player should learn to hit both types of pitchers. Situations come up all the time where the bench has been used up and a hitter must be prepared.

What do you plan to do this week during the All-Star fracas?

Take Gillie back to Brooklyn and spend a week back there myself.



Hodges

PRESS Sports

Heckuva Hex

Senators Sunk When Grant on Hill

By Gary Palmer
If the Dodgers think they have trouble with any ace Milwaukee righthander Bob Buhl, or if the Yanks shudder when they see Detroit's Frank Lary, both clubs can be consoled when they look at the Washington Senator's plight.

While Buhl is a noted Dodger-killer and Lary tames the Yankees with equal ease, the Cleveland Indians have a pitcher that strikes even greater fear into the heart of the Senators.

When Jim (Mudcat) Grant takes the hill for the Tribe against Washington, Jim Lemon's homers turn into pop-ups and Harmon Killebrew's king-size clouts become easy pinkies for the Indians, for Grant holds a lifetime mark of 14-0 against the Senators!

Though the 25-year-old righthander has been in the majors only three years, he has held an unbelievable hex over the team from the nation's capital.

Grant turned in his sixth win of the year against two losses last week and who was it against? None other than the Washington Senators, of course.

"Mudcat," whose lifetime average in the majors against all opposition is now 26-20, has steadily improved since his debut in '58. That year, the Indian ace posted a 10-11 season, but in '59 he knocked four digits off his loss mark

of the previous year, while again winning 10.

Take away his 14 victories over the Senators, and the Tribe slab star has an unimpressive, if not dismal, 12-0 record.

"Mudcat," who incidentally has a brother named Julius (Swampcat) Grant pitching for Redding in Class "A" ball, had only one losing season in the minors.

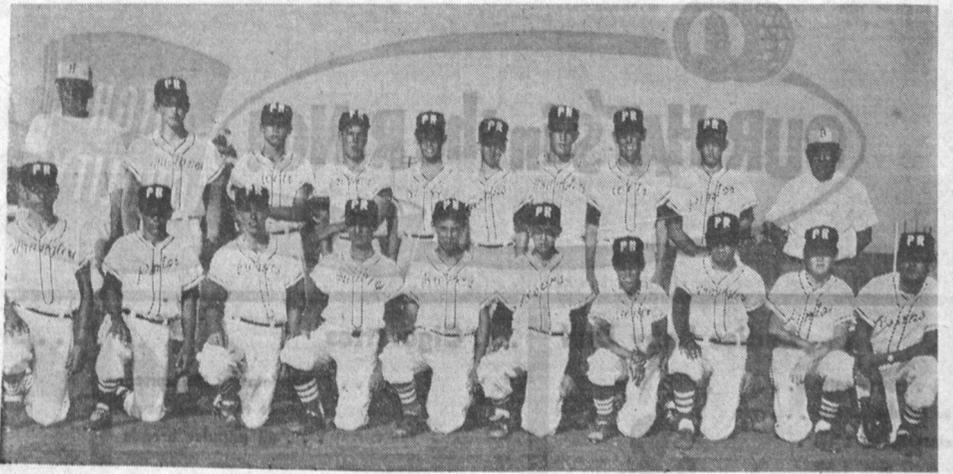
By coincidence, it was for the same Redding club his brother pitches for, and came in 1956, when he posted a 12-13 ledger. He was hitting the ball well, however, and after one exceptionally bad stretch the Redding Club thought of turning him into an outfielder.

The transition never materialized though, and at the end of the year he was promoted to San Diego in the Pacific Coast League. He regained his earlier form and finished with an impressive 18-7 mark.

In '58 he moved up to the parent club, Cleveland, and Washington's troubles began.

Early this season, Grant found himself riding the bench more than he cared to, and decided to take up piano lessons!

He may never be a Liberace at the keyboard, but as far as the Indian brass are concerned, Jim (Mudcat) Grant is the No. 1 medicine man in the Tribe teepee when the Washington Senators are in town.



PACIFIC-RIVIERA PONY LEAGUE CHAMPS, the Hayden Lee Broncos, placed five men on the all-star squad that will represent the district in playoffs later this month. The Wranglers snared three berths, while the Colts, Roans and Mustangs placed two each. Back row (left to right) Coach Bill Yenney, Terry Kirkbridge, Steve Turner, Rob Dobbie, Lee

Peerson, Dale St. John, Lanny Ropke, Ken Halland, Ray Allen and Manager Ed Kline. Front row (left to right) Bill Hocker, Ron LaPorte, John Minech, Jim Langston, Jack Dozier, John Jelinski, Dave Farber, Phil Herrera, Don Denson, and Lowell Mondragon.

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DAVE CLEVELAND, left, assistant planning director for City of Torrance, won honors in competition with civic authorities from surrounding communities in invitational golf tournament at Fox Hills Country Club. Jack Spahn of Barclay-Pearson Co., presents trophy to Cleveland.

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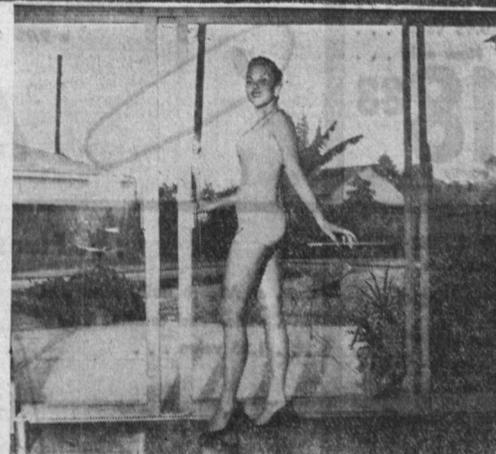
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Rec Department Schedules Trips
Outings to Pacific Ocean Park and a Dodgers baseball game are planned for teenagers under auspices of the Torrance Recreation Department.
The trip to the amusement park is planned for 4 p.m. Thursday. Cost is \$2.50 per person.
The journey to see the Dodgers play Pittsburgh is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. July 21 and the cost is \$1.
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